

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail address change notification deputization system that provides notification about a client's e-mail address change to a sender of an e-mail after the sender sends an e-mail to the client, the system comprising:

a first provider server configured to receive and store e-mails sent to in which a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set until the first e-mail address is invalidated as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address;

a second provider server configured to receive and store e-mails sent to in which a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set; and

an address change notification deputization service server,

wherein said first provider server is configured to transfers an e-mail that is sent to said first mail address to said second provider server e-mail address upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server is configured to transfers at least one e-mail that is sent to said second e-mail address to said address change notification deputization service server, server,

and wherein until the e-mail address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server checks whether the at least one e-mail is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and makes a notification to the sender of the e-mail to notify that the e-mail address of

said client is changed to the second e-mail address, if the at least one e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

2. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein said address change notification deputization service server is provided with an e-mail header analyzing means of extracting and analyzing the e-mail header from said transferred e-mail, and

wherein said e-mail header analyzing means checks said path by analyzing the e-mail header of said e-mail.

3. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein a terminal of said client receives said e-mail from said second provider server, and

the e-mail received by the terminal of said client has the same contents as of the e-mail transferred to said address change notification deputization service server.

4. - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein said address change notification deputization service server has e-mail addresses of a predetermined one or a plurality of senders that send an e-mail to said client, and

wherein the operation of making said notification is stopped when all the e-mails sent from the e-mail addresses of said senders have been confirmed to be received by said second provider server without passing through said first provider server.

7. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein said address change notification deputization service server simultaneously sends a program for rewriting said first e-mail addresses of said client that is inscribed in an address book of the receivers of said

notification to said second mail addresses at the time when carrying out the operation of making said notification.

8. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 1, wherein in the case that a sender of an e-mail to said client is an information distributor, said sender make a contract with the manager of said address change notification deputization service server such that said information distributor spontaneously switches said first e-mail addresses for said client to said second e-mail addresses in the case that said information distributor receives said notification from said address change notification deputization service server.

9. (Original) The e-mail address change notification deputization system according to claim 8, wherein a terminal of said information distributor is provided with a means of switching the addresses of said client to the second e-mail addresses in the case that said notification is received from the manager of said address change notification deputization service server who has made said contract.

10. (Currently Amended) An address change notification deputization service server that provides notification about a client's e-mail address change to a sender of an e-mail after the sender sends an e-mail to the to the client, the server comprising:

wherein when a first provider server, ~~in which is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to a first e-mail address of a client until the first e-mail address is invalidated as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address,~~ is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to a first e-mail address of a client until the first e-mail address is invalidated as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address, ~~is maintained as valid in the server as set~~ receives an e-mail that is sent to said first e-mail address, this e-mail is transferred to a second e-mail address corresponding to a second provider server, ~~in which the second provider server being configured to receive and store e-mails sent to a the second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set~~ and, then, when said second provider server receives an e-mail transferred from said first provider server said address change notification deputization service server receives this transfer,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, whether the e-mail is sent through the first provider server is checked, based on the path taken by the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server and only if the e-mail is sent through the first provider server, said address change notification deputization service server makes a notification to the sender of this e-mail to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address.

11. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, comprising an e-mail header analyzing means of extracting and analyzing an e-mail header from said transferred e-mail,

wherein said e-mail header analyzing means analyzes the e-mail header of said e-mail so as to check said path.

12. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, wherein a terminal of said client receives said e-mail from said second provider server, and

wherein the e-mail received by the terminal of said client has the same contents as of the e-mail that is transferred to said address change notification deputization service server.

13. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, having e-mail addresses of a predetermined sender, or a plurality of sender, that send an e-mail to said client,

wherein the operation of making said notification is stopped when all the e-mails sent from the e-mail addresses of said senders are confirmed to have been received by said second provider server without passing through said first provider server.

16. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, wherein a program for rewriting said first e-mail

addresses of said client inscribed in an address book of the receivers of said notification to said second e-mail addresses is simultaneously sent at the time when the operation of making said notification is carried out.

17. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 10, wherein in the case that a sender of an e-mail to said client is an information distributor, a contract is made with said information distributor such that said information distributor spontaneously sets said first e-mail address for said client to said second e-mail addresses in the case of receiving said notification from said address change notification deputization service server.

18. (Original) The address change notification deputization service server according to claim 17, wherein a terminal of said information distributor comprises a means of setting the addresses said client to the second e-mail addresses in the case that said notification is received from a manager of said address change notification deputization service server who has made said contract.

19. (Currently Amended) A second provider server comprising:

the second provider server being configured to receive and store e-mails sent to~~in which a second e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set, and to for receiveing~~ a transfer of an e-mail to said client from a first provider server in which is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to a first e-mail address of said client until the first e-mail address is invalidated as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address~~is maintained as valid in the server as set,~~

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second ~~provider server~~e-mail address when receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server when receiving this e-mail,

and wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server

checks whether the e-mail is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and makes a notification to the sender of the e-mail to notify that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address, if the e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

20. (Currently Amended) A terminal of a client who has made a first contract with a first provider server wherein which is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to a first e-mail address until the client cancels the first contract, which invalidates the first e-mail address as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address, is maintained as valid in the server as set and who has made a second contract with a second provider server which is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to wherein a second e-mail address is maintained as valid in the server as set,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second ~~provider server~~ e-mail address upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server checks whether the e-mail is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and makes a notification to a sender of the e-mail to notify that the e-mail address of the client is changed to said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

21. (Currently Amended) A terminal of a sender who sends an e-mail to either a first provider server which is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to wherein a first e-mail address of a client until the first e-mail address is invalidated as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer

~~receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address is maintained as valid in the server as set~~ or to a second provider server which is configured to receive and store e-mails sent to wherein a second e-mail address of said client ~~is maintained as valid in the server as set,~~

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second ~~provider server~~ e-mail address upon receiving this e-mail while said second provider server transfers at least one e-mail that is sent to said second e-mail address,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server checks whether the at least one e-mail is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and, thereby, the terminal of the sender receives a notification to notify that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address, if the at least one e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

22. (Currently Amended) An e-mail address change notification deputization method for providing notification about a client's e-mail address change to a sender of an e-mail after the sender sends an e-mail to the client, the method comprising the steps of:

using a first provider server, which receives and stores e-mails sent to wherein a first e-mail address of a client, ~~is maintained as valid in the server as set~~ and a second provider server, which receives and stores e-mails sent to wherein a second e-mail address of said client, to carry out steps ~~is maintained as valid in the server as set,~~ comprising:

the step of allowing said first provider server to transfer an e-mail that is sent to said first e-mail address to said second e-mail address ~~second provider server~~ upon receiving this e-mail;

the step of allowing said second provider server to transfer an e-mail that is transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail; and

the step of invalidating the first e-mail address as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server checks whether the e-mail is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and makes a notification to the sender of the e-mail to notify that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

23. (Currently Amended) An address change notification deputization service method for providing notification about a client's e-mail address change to a sender of an e-mail after the send sends an e-mail to the client, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a transfer of an e-mail from a second provider server when the second provider server receives the e-mail transferred from a first provider server after the first provider server receives the e-mail that is sent to a first e-mail address and, then, transfers this e-mail to ~~said a second provider server~~ an e-mail address corresponding to the second provider server, the first provider server receiving and storing e-mails sent to the first e-mail address and the second provider server receiving and storing e-mails sent to the second e-mail address ~~wherein a first e-mail address of a client is maintained as valid in the server as set in said first provider server while a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set in said second provider server;~~

invalidating the first e-mail address as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, the path taken by the e-mail through the sender's e-mail server is checked, and a notification to the sender of the e-mail is made to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is sent through said first provider server.

24. (Currently Amended) An e-mail reception method, comprising the steps of:

wherein a second provider server ~~in~~, which receives and stores e-mails sent to a second e-mail address of a client, ~~is maintained as valid in the server as set~~ receives a transfer of an e-mail to said client from a first provider server, ~~in~~ which receives and stores e-mails sent to a first e-mail address of the client ~~is maintained as valid in the server as set~~,

wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail sent to said first e-mail address to said second ~~provider server~~ e-mail address upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein said second provider server transfers an e-mail transferred from said first provider server to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

wherein the first e-mail address is invalidated as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server checks whether the email is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and makes a notification to the sender of the email to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

25. (Currently Amended) An e-mail sending method comprising the steps of:

sending an e-mail to either a first provider server, which receives and stores e-mails sent to in which a first e-mail address of a client, is maintained as valid in the server as set or to a second provider server, which receives and stores e-mails sent to in which a second e-mail address of said client is maintained as valid in the server as set, wherein said first provider server transfers an e-mail, which is sent to said first e-mail address, to said second provider server e-mail address upon receiving this e-mail and said second provider server transfers an the e-mail, which is transferred from said first provider, to an address change notification deputization service server upon receiving this e-mail,

invalidating the first e-mail address as set in the first provider server such that the first provider server no longer receives and stores e-mails sent to the first e-mail address,

wherein until the email address set in the first provider server is invalid as said client's address, said address change notification deputization service server checks whether the email is sent through the first provider server, based on the path taken by an e-mail through the sender's e-mail server, and, thereby, a notification is made to the sender of the e-mail by said address change notification deputization service server to the effect that the e-mail address of said client is changed to said second e-mail address only in the case that the e-mail is sent through the first provider server.

26. (Original) A program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the first provider server in which the first e-mail address of the client is set, the second provider server in which the second e-mail address of said client is set and the address change notification deputization service server in the e-mail address change notification deputization system according to Claim 1.

27. (Original) A program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the address change notification deputization service server for receiving a transfer of an e-mail when a second provider server receives the e-mail that is transferred from a first provider server after said first provider server receives the e-mail that is sent to a first mail address and, then, transfers this e-mail to said second provider server, wherein the first e-mail address of the client is

set in said first provider server while the second e-mail address of said client is set in said second provider server according to Claim 10.

28. (Original) A program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the terminal of the sender who sends an e-mail to either the first provider server wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set or to the second provider server wherein the second e-mail address of said client is set according to Claim 21.

29. (Original) A medium that holds a program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the first provider server in which the first e-mail address of the client is set, the second provider server in which the second e-mail address of said client is set and the address change notification deputization service server in the e-mail address change notification deputization system according to Claim 1, wherein the medium can be processed by a computer.

30. (Original) A medium that holds a program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the address change notification deputization service server for receiving a transfer of an e-mail when a second provider server receives the e-mail that is transferred from a first provider server after said first provider server receives the e-mail that is sent to a first mail address and, then, transfers this e-mail to said second provider server, wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set in said first provider server while the second e-mail address of said client is set in said second provider server according to Claim 10, wherein the medium can be processed by a computer.

31. (Original) A medium that holds a program for allowing a computer to function as the entirety of, or a part of, the terminal of the sender who sends an e-mail to either the first provider server wherein the first e-mail address of the client is set or to the second provider server wherein the second e-mail address of said client is set according to Claim 21, wherein the medium can be processed by a computer.